The Network and The Network Integration Kit (B-Kit)

The Network is a layered system of computers and software, radios, and sensors all interconnected within the Brigade Combat Team. The network is essential to delivering Unified Battle Command and will be delivered to the Army's Brigade Combat Teams in increments. The first increment is currently in testing and will be delivered to the Infantry Brigade Combat Teams in the form of Network Integration Kits (B-Kits).

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The Network:

Currently, there are many radio and computer systems all using different waveforms or software this, at times, makes communication difficult. With uniformed radios and software the network will enable true Unified Battle Command. The Soldier at every echelon, from Brigade to Squad will be connected to the proper sensor data and communication relays to ensure proper battlespace situational awareness. The network is also being tested and evaluated in a Joint Service and Multinational operating environment to ensure ability to integrate communications with Joint Service Agencies and with our allies.

Multi-Layered Network:

The network is being designed with five layers of protection and redundancy for near seamless data collection and transmission: Sensor/Platform Layer, Application Layer, Services Layer, Transport Layer, and Standards Layer. These layers provide diversity in waveform, frequency and environment to ensure there are multiple paths to transport the data. Each network is tailored to support the specific needs of the end users. Depending upon the communication configuration most users will be provided with multiple layers of access. Since full spectrum operating environments are not forgiving, when a layer of communication becomes unavailable (due to increased range, obstructions, etc.) to a node the next best layer will be selected (with impacts to the performance) to support the node's connectivity. Together, these layers provide seamless delivery of information.

The Network Integration Kit (B-Kit):

The B-Kit provides initial network connectivity to transfer sensor and communication data to and from existing tactical wheeled vehicles. The B-Kit consists of an integrated computer system hosting the lasted communications and radio systems, limited battle command and Systems of Systems Common Operating Environment software and will be initially integrated into tactical wheeled vehicle platforms.